

The Weekly Banner.

JOHN G. HANKIN,
Editor, Publisher and Proprietor.

Brenham, Thursday, Nov. 27, 1897

THE stock of gold in the world is estimated at \$450,000,000,000.

POLITICS in the republic of Columbia is approaching a crisis.

MARK HANNA has no dead thing on being returned to the United States senate from Ohio.

THE matrimonial market continues brisk, notwithstanding the depressed condition of the cotton market.

AUSTRALIA ranks first as a wool producing country, the United States and Russia following in that order.

WEYLER is charged with pocketing a cool million dollars while "lording it" over the poor unfortunates in Cuba.

It is said that 40,000 head of beef cattle have been recently purchased in Texas, with which to provision the Spanish army in Cuba.

PARTIES who have recently returned from the Klondike country confirm the report that another rich strike had been made near Dawson.

THERE is a movement on foot in New York to bar Old Santa Claus out of the churches, but he will be reluctantly admitted to the Sunday school chapels.

THE Chickasaw legislature have decided to have a new constitution and for that purpose have appropriated \$20,000. The old constitution is about to fall down, so a new one is imperative.

MRS. KATE CABELL CURRIE, of Dallas, was elected president of the National Association of the Daughters of the Confederacy at their meeting held in Baltimore last week. A high honor worthily bestowed.

GREATER NEW YORK is to have a hall of education, to cost something like a half million dollars, to be used exclusively by the board of education, which now rents quarters on the outside from time to time.

THE Palestine Press says: "We do not hear much of our possum, persimmon and 'tater crop in the government agricultural report, but none the less it is a prominent member on our programme in these parts."

NEW ZEALAND has her first woman physician in the person of Miss Emily H. Seideberg. She was a student at Dublin, Edinburgh and Berlin. About a month ago she returned to New Zealand and engaged regularly in the practice of medicine.

BOSTON has started a crusade that will be damaging to the saloon trade. A party of her prominent men met and organized a club whose most prominent by-law is a provision which absolutely forbids any member to pay for another's drink.

REPRESENTATIVE CALVIN's resolution authorizing the appointment of a committee of six to take measures for marking the Confederate soldiers' graves who are now buried in Northern States, passed the lower house of the Georgia legislature by unanimous vote, amid great applause.

THE Waco Tribune has the following sensible advice concerning the farm tenant agitation: "Public opinion hereabouts will not condone violent or incendiary language or sentiment. Neither will it look leniently on any threats of violence to land owners or tenants who are willing to continue paying money rent. No true friend of the renting element will countenance an intemperate course, in word or deed. We say to the renters: Keep cool, be reasonable, hold down the element that talks about 'sowing Johnson grass,' 'using the strap' and burning houses, and you will win your fight. Otherwise you will not win."

Some Pension Statistics.

The number of names on the pension rolls in 1896 was 970,524. Since that time there have been about 54,000 names added, and a slight decrease by death, so that the number now is over 1,000,000. The number of applicants for pensions to the close of 1896 was 2,111,820 and during this year something over 200,000. Thus it will be seen that there are very few of the patriots who saved the Union that have not applied for a pension. When we consider the fact that each applicant sets forth a statement of injuries received in the service of Uncle Sam we can form a faint idea of the number of men who have perjured themselves in the hope of robbing the government they fought to perpetuate. The quality of the patriotism that is to be measured by dollars and cents may be illustrated by the remark of a gentleman in Brenham. He said: "My father lives in California and draws a pension. He landed in New York from England in 1864. He was offered \$1,700 to go in the army as a substitute. This was more money than he ever dreamed of possessing and he enlisted. He never got any further south than Washington, but he served his ninety days and now draws a pension of \$24 a month. The \$1,700 he got laid the foundation of a handsome fortune, and he is of the opinion that patriotism pays."

Quite a number of the widows of revolutionary soldiers still draw pensions and it is estimated that one will

According to the same estimate the last surviving widow of the civil war will draw her stipend in 2002. The amount paid out in pensions since 1861 is \$11,858,225,077.20. The payment last year amounted to \$141,000,000 and this year, under a party whose boast is that no pension application is ever rejected they will reach \$150,000,000. We are fond of comparing our government and our liberties with those of foreign despotism. We speak of the immense standing armies of European powers, and congratulate ourselves on living in a land of peace and freedom. But, let's see about it. The total expenditures of the German government, for army, navy, interest and all are about \$300,000,000 or about double our pension appropriations. They sustain an army of 1,000,000 men on about one-half the money we pay to 1,000,000 perjured bounty-jumpers. I will modify the latter statement by admitting that there are a few—perhaps 15 per cent—of these pensioner justly entitled to the pay they draw; nay more, the deserving ones should have twice as much as they get and several hundred thousand of the others be sent to the penitentiary for fraud and perjury. But one feature of the case that is seldom taken into consideration is the fact that the German army of 1,000,000 men is removed from competition with the men who are taxed to support them.

With us the pensioners are on deck for every government position that is worth filling and compete in every line of industry with those who are taxed to pay them their fraudulent pensions. Quite recently in Texas the members of the Grand Army have memorialized the Republican State Executive Committee to as far as possible commend for federal office the grand army veterans, and when that was not practicable give the appointment to sons of veterans. Like Oliver Twist, they continually cry for more. In all sincerity and with no partisanship the pension policy of the government is the gravest wrong ever perpetrated, aside from the granting of negro suffrage. It is making its impress in the character of the American people and producing a race of paupers. In the North you can find thousands of able-bodied men half living and dead-

beating their way on a small pension, abusing the government for not increasing it. Idleness begets vices and the man who should be an independent, self-supporting, self-respecting citizen becomes an idle, worthless vagabond and pauper. In strong contrast to this may be seen the thousands of ex-confederates earning an honest livelihood and filling high positions in common in all branches of industry. Only a few take advantage of the homes and pensions provided for them by their respective States. The entire system is a grievous wrong to the entire people, but more to the unworthy beneficiaries in the end than to those who pay the taxes.

TIME TO THINK.

The Tyler Courier claims that conditions are such in that immediate section of the state that the average farmer cannot hope to make any headway towards the support of himself and family unless his course is directed by the exercise of wisdom and foresight. The staple crop is no longer to be relied upon. The cotton crop is uncertain in both yield and price. Credit for another year is uncertain. Merchants are much discouraged over the present situation as are farmers, and, altogether, the future for the farmer who relies solely upon a cotton crop, or the merchant who depends upon cotton to settle accounts, is full of uncertainties. What is needed most is a change in the cotton crop from a full to a half crop. Other produce must be grown or our condition will grow worse than it is now. The Courier has several times this fall sounded a warning, but it fears the farmers have not yet thought seriously of the condition that will follow without a change in farm products for another year. It is no argument to say that corn or wheat will not pay. It is not a question of pay; it is a question of meat and bread for the family. It is well enough to raise cotton to buy dry goods, but it is a heavy loss to grow cotton and use the little money it brings in buying any article that can be produced by labor on the farm. What it is impossible to produce on the farm must be bought, of course; but the man who buys what his own labor will produce cannot hope to succeed until times change very materially. Industry and wise economy will carry to a safe anchorage all those who practice both. It pays to think and plan, but industry and economy must follow. A dark day is coming for the lazy, shiftless man. It takes metal and energy and common sense these times to win. The lazy man is done for. He can no longer make a living by trusting to luck. Farmers should sow wheat this fall. They should begin now to get along on less than they have spent this year. Aside from dry goods, the farmer should spend but little money. Bread and meat at home the year round means two-thirds of the battle. Try it, please.

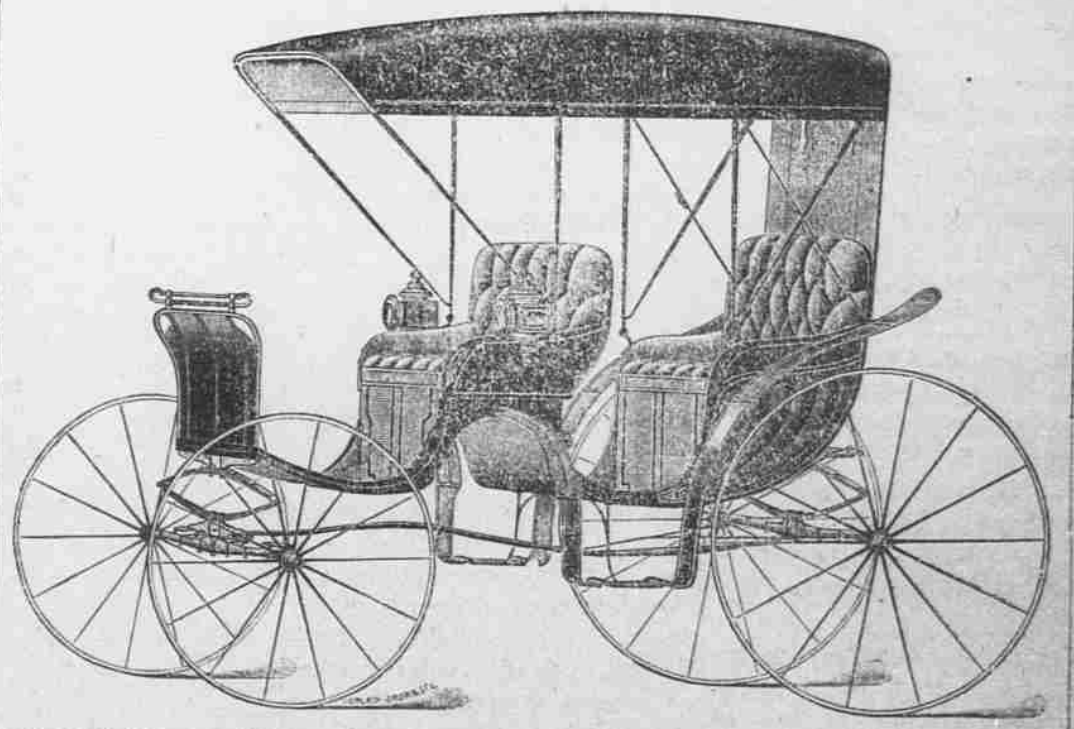
THE Denison Gazetteer predicts that if Mayor Van Wyck carries out the programme he lays down for his guidance in the letter he published immediately after he received the news of his election, Greater New York will have no just reason to regret the triumph of Tammany. He talks like a true Jeffersonian democrat.

THE Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe railway contemplate erecting a handsome new pressed brick depot in Houston at an early date, the appointments of which will be as fine and the finish as neat as any in Texas. In addition to the new depot the company will construct a train shed to extend from Congress street to Preston Avenue, which will afford their patrons needed protection in rainy or warm weather.

The man with loose habits is the one that is oftenest tight.

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THE Hillsboro Herald predicts that Texas will, in a few years, be the richest agricultural State in the union, and having the best water power will occupy a prominent place as a manufacturing country. Already, the cotton crop exceeds that of any other State, and the growth of wheat in northwest Texas is assuming grand proportions. The annual export of wool, hides, barrel beef, cattle and fruits are each estimated by the millions of dollars. It only requires capital to develop a sugar country of sufficient size and fertility to supply the wants of the entire republic for sugar and syrup.

—W. P. Martin, of Ohio, has brought suit against the Texas City Improvement Company for \$30,000 and asks that a receiver be appointed to take charge of the property.

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